



Arizona Game and Fish Department Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Protocols

Revised February, 2014

DAY USERS: Any watercraft, boats, vehicles, conveyances, or other equipment that have been in or on aquatic invasive species (AIS) listed waters for 5 days or less.

Day use watercraft, boats, vehicles, equipment, or conveyances have the potential to carry live larval invasive species (such as quagga veligers) to other unaffected and/or unlisted waters. To clean/decontaminate your watercraft, boat, vehicle, equipment, or conveyance, the following steps should be taken:

Day Use Decontamination Protocols:

- Step 1. *Before Leaving the Vicinity of the AIS Listed Water*, **clean/remove** any clinging material such as plants, animals and mud from anchor, boat, motor, and trailer.
- Step 2. *Before Leaving the Vicinity of the AIS Listed Water*, **remove the plug** (if applicable) and **drain the water** from the bilge, live-well and any other compartments that could hold water. If applicable, also allow for water to drain from engine, engine cooling system(s), and lower unit.
- Step 3. Ensure that watercraft, vehicle, equipment, or conveyance are allowed to **dry completely** before transporting to an unaffected or unlisted water.

IF USING BOAT AGAIN IN LESS THAN FIVE DAYS FROM PREVIOUS USE:

- Step 4. Replace bilge drain plug and disinfect the bilge by pouring in approximately one gallon of vinegar; the vinegar can be drained from the bilge prior to transporting the watercraft to an unaffected and/or unlisted water. This vinegar can be reused.

NOTES:

- It is unlawful to transport an Arizona listed aquatic invasive species (i.e., quagga mussels; Asian carp) under Arizona Revised Statutes §17-309 and §17-255.02, Arizona Game and Fish Commission Order 42, and Arizona Administrative Code (Arizona Game and Fish Commission) Rule R12-4-406 and Rule R12-4-1102. Any violations of these statutes may result in a citation and/or quarantine.
- These protocols are based on standards set forth by the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and 100th Meridian Initiative recommendations for the control, containment and abatement of aquatic invasive species and current Arizona AIS Director's Order 3.



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LONG TERM USERS (e.g., Moored/Marina-based Boats): Any watercraft, boats, vehicles, equipment, or conveyances that have been in or on aquatic invasive species (AIS) listed waters for more than 5 days.

Watercraft, boats, equipment, or conveyances that have stayed in quagga/zebra mussel listed AIS waters for longer than five days will likely be heavily contaminated with larval mussels. Watercraft that have stayed or been moored in these waters longer (weeks or months) will be heavily contaminated with attached adult mussels. Typically these boats/vessels are very large with many through hull fittings and equipment that resist the most meticulous decontamination efforts. **Therefore, mandatory decontamination procedures for these vessels must include minimum desiccation or dry times.**

To dislodge or kill visible attached mussels (or microscopic veligers) from your watercraft, vehicle, equipment, or conveyance, the following steps (specifically 1, 2, 3, 4) should be taken before leaving the vicinity of the AIS listed water and steps 5 and 6 performed on of your watercraft, vehicle, equipment, or conveyance prior to transportation to another water.

Long Term-Moored Boat Decontamination Protocols:

- Step 1. **Clean/remove** any clinging material such as plants, animals and mud from anchor, boat, motor, external equipment, and trailer.
- Step 2. **Remove the plug** (if applicable) and **drain the water** from the bilge, live-well and any other compartments that could hold water. If applicable, also allow for water to drain from engine, engine cooling system(s), and lower unit.
- Step 3. **Physically remove all visible attached mussels** from boat surfaces, such as motors, impellers, outdrives, rudders, anchor(s), and through hull fittings.
- Step 4. Where watercraft decontamination facilities are available, **flush engine, cooling system and any other through hull fittings with hot water** that is at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of ten seconds.
- Step 5. **Keep the boat out of the water and dry (desiccate)** all areas of the boat, including bilge, through hull fittings and engine, for a **minimum of 18 consecutive days during the months of November through April** and **7 consecutive days from May through October**.
- Step 6. **Completely fill out and file** the Aquatic Invasive Species Boating Inspection Report (AISBIR) **prior to transport to another water or State**. This form can be downloaded at www.azgfd.gov/ais.

NOTES:

- It is unlawful to transport an Arizona listed aquatic invasive species (i.e., quagga mussels; Asian carp) under Arizona Revised Statutes §17-309 and §17-255.02, Arizona Game and Fish Commission Order 42, and Arizona Administrative Code (Arizona Game and Fish Commission) Rule R12-4-406 and Rule R12-4-1102. Any violations of these statutes may result in a citation and/or quarantine.
- These protocols are based on standards set forth by the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and 100th Meridian Initiative recommendations for the control, containment and abatement of aquatic invasive species and current Arizona AIS Director's Orders. Per the 100th Meridian Quarantine Estimator, Arizona desiccation/dry times have been identified using central and western Arizona desert areas. **Dry time begins when the boat is drained and drying, not necessarily when the boat is pulled from the water.**